

Subject: [TRAV-NET] NEWS REPORT ON WOODSIDE

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Reply-To: 'Traveller-Net' Network <TRAVELLER-NET@JISCMAIL.AC>
To:

Report from the newspaper Bedfordshire on Sunday (29/12/2002) sent via Budapest.

Old gypsy site has been turned into sea of mud

THE last Gypsy family on land at the Hatch site says that council contractors have left the site a misery to live on.

The Codona family say they have had to spend Christmas in the middle of a sea of mud and waterlogged land.

The family are the only people left living on the larger back part of Woodside Caravan Park. The back part of the site, once home to over 40 families, has been cleared following the eviction of all residents.

Mid Bedfordshire District Council contractors and officer cleared the site by force following a High Court decision to allow action to take place to carry out an enforcement notice issued to residents for breach of planning law.

The site is only meant to have touring caravans, allow residents argued that they lived in touring caravans.

The Codona family was given a temporary reprieve because they have launched an appeal against the decision to evict them in the High Court.

Destroyed

Now the entire site, once grass and hard standing, has been churned up to mud.

All buildings have been removed but the Codona plot remains intact.

Clifford Codona said: "The council contractors have turned Woodside from a nice peaceful place to a mud bath.

"The eviction and the contractors employed by Mid Beds has only destroyed Woodside not made it better. The site is an eye sore and we have had to live with it, our carpets in our homes are ruined and the gravel in our plot is destroyed.

"We have had eight punctures on our cars and the

mailbox:/

%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%20%

stress is unbearable. It is no wonder that local authorities get poor national ratings if Woodside is anything to go by.

"The Ivel Drainage board have piped and drained the neighbouring property into the ditch that runs into Woodside, knowing full well the it cannot drain the water off.

"The outcome being Woodside flooding, but what the heck – it's only the gypsies at Hatch that will suffer."

Nobody from Mid Beds District Council was available to comment

Pictures show the Gypsy site at Hatch earlier this year, and after the travellers were evicted

The reports with pictures can be viewed at:

<http://www.seriousaboutnews.com/cgi/xtranews/viewnews.cgi?newsid1041120000.66645>.

I could find no new reports in the Bedfordshire on Sunday (Luton edition) on councillor Richard Stay's referendum, that will take place in the New Year, to initiate legal action to close the Timberland site. Is there any new news on this?

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